

**Meeting Date:** January 10, 2007

**Agenda Item No.** Workshop

**Agenda Item:** Workshop on Mule Deer

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Brad Compton

**Background:**

Mule deer are an important wildlife resource to Idaho's hunters and citizens. Southern and eastern Idaho have been renowned for abundant populations providing ample opportunity for hunting and taking mature bucks. The long-term trend in mule deer populations across the West, including Idaho, is downward. The Department's desire, consistent with public expectations, is to intensively manage mule deer and mule deer habitat to improve populations and hunter satisfaction.

In the fall of 2005, staff developed a Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) Action Plan, outlining activities the Department will implement to meet the goals of the Initiative. The Commission endorsed the action plan. Public scoping of the Action Plan was completed to identify mule deer hunter priorities.

Over the past year, the Department has implemented a number of strategies identified in the Action Plan. Recently, the MDI team gathered to review Action Plan strategies to identify successes, challenges, and develop more specific goals and objectives.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

None.

**Public Involvement Process:**

None.

**Staff Recommendation:**

This workshop is for informational purposes.

**Justification:**

The Commission has requested a review of the Department's Mule Deer Initiative efforts and Emergency Winter Feeding Program.

The workshop agenda is attached.

Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
Mule Deer Initiative Workshop  
January 10, 2006 (1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)  
Headquarters Office (600 S. Walnut Street)  
Boise, Idaho

- 1) Purpose:
  - *to provide the Commission with a review of the Department's Mule Deer Initiative program.*
- 2) Outcome:
  - *Commission understanding of the progress and status of the Mule Deer Initiative*
- 3) Winter feeding
  - State Department of Agriculture - Feeding Rules (John Chatburn, 10 minutes)
  - Review history, statutes, policies, regional criteria, budget, winter feeding programs in other states (Brad Compton, 20 minutes)
  - Disease Issues & State Brucellosis Management Plan (Dr. Phil Mamer, 10 minutes)
- 4) Habitat (Paul Wackenhut, Southeast Region Habitat Manager, 45 minute)
  - Review the action items, accomplishments, challenges and solutions
- 5) Populations (Randy Smith, Magic Valley Region Wildlife Manager, 20 minutes)
  - Review antlerless deer management and review the action items, accomplishments, challenges and solutions
- 6) Access (Jim Mende, Southeast Region Environmental Staff Biologist, 15 minutes)
  - Review motorized vehicle rule and Forest Service Travel Plan activities
- 7) Communication (Kelton Hatch, Magic Valley Region Regional Conservation Educator, 20 minutes)
  - Summarize communication efforts, review the action items, accomplishments, challenges and solutions
- 8) Enforcement (John Hanson, Upper Snake Regional Conservation Officer, 20 minutes)
  - Summarize MDI enforcement efforts, review the action items, accomplishments, challenges and solutions
- 9) Predators (Toby Boudreau, Mule Deer Initiative Coordinator, 15 minutes)
  - Summarize predator management activities and review the action items, accomplishments, challenges and solutions
- 10) Outcome/objectives (Toby Boudreau, Mule Deer Initiative Coordinator, 10 minutes)
  - Review the list of desired outcomes and objectives
- 11) Commission discussion and direction